

# Island of Key Largo Federation of Homeowners Association

## June 11, 2014 General Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the President Dottie Moses at 7:05 PM at the Key Largo Library Community Room. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted by the 24 attendees.

Dottie acknowledged the following guests: Warren Leamand, who is running for County School Board and his wife Abby.

Secretary D. A. Aldridge stated the May's meeting minutes were approved by the Executive Committee to aid in shortening our General Meetings. The minutes are available on our web site and there were copies available on the table by the door.

Treasurer Ann Nickerson announced that there was a balance of \$2183.25 in the Federation's checking account. Pauline Klein reported there was no change in the Special Projects and Legal Fund.

The President then introduced Florida Representative Holly Rashein who presented a 2014 Florida legislative session wrap up. The Legislature passed a \$77 billion budget that was signed by the Governor last week. With a surplus of funds, the legislature was able to spend money on programs that were cut or ignored during the previous economic downturn. Some of the programs that directly impacted the Keys that were funded are: \$50 million for its wastewater treatment projects, \$260,000 for lionfish control, \$1.1 million for artificial reef construction, and \$167 million for affordable housing programs. She spoke of naming the 18 mile stretch the Purple Heart Highway in honor of our veterans.

Dottie then introduced our next speakers: Biscayne National Park Superintendent Brian Carlstrom and Elsa Alvear, Chief of Resource Management who spoke on the status of the Draft Park Management Plan and the Final Fishery Management Plan. Because Biscayne National Park is composed of 4 ecosystems [mangroves, Biscayne Bay, 42 islands, and 5000+ patch reefs], it has been a challenge in developing an all encompassing Management Plan that will guide the Park's operation over the next few decades. As part of the Plan, the Final Fishery Management Plan was issued in May. It addresses the management of fishery resources by setting goals that can be met through state and federal regulations. The Park hopes to increase by 20% the size and number of its fishing stock.

The Draft General Management Plan originally had 5 alternatives but added 2 other alternatives due to comments submitted by the public. There is controversy over a Special Recreational Zone that would require permits for recreational fishing, phasing out of commercial fishing, and if it should be a Marine Reserve where no fishing would be allowed. The Final Management Plan is targeted to be published at the end of 2014 or early 2015.

### Committee Reports

- External Affairs

Dottie informed the attendees that the Federation had sent a letter to the Board of County Commissioners [BOCC] requesting that the County not to forego the use of

competitive bidding for the three solid waste activities (collection, transfer station, and haul out from the County). Although many organizations wrote and spoke in support of competitive bidding, the BOCC granted extensions to the existing contracts.

Another letter sent by the Federation to the BOCC to change the County's Comprehensive Plan to require inclusionary housing for commercial and transient housing was accepted by the BOCC. The County Staff was directed to make this part of the Land Development Regulations.

- Internal Affairs

Vice President Mark Tanner was not present so there was no report.

- Membership

D. A. announced that The Sanctuary of Key Largo Condominium Association and Largo Sound Park Club have joined the Federation. Skip Kaub has joined as an individual member. The Federation is seeking new Executive Committee Members and any one interested in joining to speak to President Dottie Moses. The Federation has begun sending out a monthly newsletter and if any of the Director's were not receiving it, to speak to D. A.

- Environmental

Dottie spoke about some of the Federation members participating in the Sheriff's and the Rotary Club's clean up at the Circle K MM106, on June 9, 2014. The Sheriff's deputies were pleased at the number of Federation members who joined in the clean up.

At our last Federation meeting, the Florida Department of Transportation [FDOT] representative stated, during his presentation, that no shrubbery around the Welcome Key Largo sign was planned. Dottie wrote a letter after the meeting asking for this to be changed. She has heard from FDOT and it has agreed to change the plan and add foliage.

Also at our last meeting, The Sanctuary Association representative asked who he could contact about a U-turn ban that FDOT had put in place with the repaving that impacted his community. Dottie wrote a letter to FDOT on behalf of The Sanctuary to correct this problem. The FDOT did respond and has changed the signs to now allow U-turns.

Dottie stated that efforts were continuing on Buttonwood Sound Mooring Field and that would be the topic of the next Federation meeting.

Garden Cove has continued to have a problem with code compliance in the area and Dottie had been planning to speak with the County Code Compliance people. The County had cancel a meeting this week but it will be rescheduled to deal with this and the Clean Up Key Largo Clean Up campaign.

## Old Business

- Boat Hoists

Burke Cannon had no news to report. He was planning to talk with the County at the meeting that was cancelled.

- Joint Federation and Sheriff's Clean Up

Dottie reminded everyone one about our Clean Up initiative with the Sheriff's Office scheduled for June 23 at the Tradewinds Plaza. She has requested supplies and manpower from Publix, K-Mart, and Arby's. She asked everyone to support this endeavor.

- Political Candidate Forum

The attendees were reminded that the Federation was co-sponsoring, with the Tavernier Community Association, a political forum on July 16, 2014 at 7 PM at the Murray Nelson Government and Cultural Center.

#### New Business

- July Federation Meeting

The next meeting will be July 9, 2014 at the Murray Nelson Government & Cultural Center building at 7 PM. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission [FWC] Captain Shipp will be speaking on the State's Pilot Mooring Field Program. Commissioner George Neugent, Christine Hurley [Division Director of Growth Management], and Richard Jones [County Marine Resources] are also be coming to the Federations meeting to speak and answer questions about the proposed Buttonwood Sound Bay mooring field.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Submitted by,

D. A. Aldridge